



He Queenes most Excellent Maiestie being credibly en-  
formed that many Vagabonds, Rogues, idle persons, and ma-  
sterlesse men hauing nothing to liue on, doe dayly resort to the  
Cities of London and Westminster, and to the Suburbs of the  
same and also to the Borough of Southwarke, and other Vil-  
lages and Townes neere adioyning to the said Cities and Bo-  
rough, and there are suffered to liue very disorderly, by occasion  
whereof many Robberies and Felonies, and other horrible  
crimes and offences be committed and done, to the high displea-  
sure of Almighty God, and to the great hurt of her good and lo-  
uing Subjects, the chiefe occasion whereof seemeth to be the want of the good execution of  
good Lawes and Statutes made for the punishment of such Masterlesse men, Idle and  
Vagrant persons: wherefore her Maiestie minding with some severity primely to haue  
the said good Lawes and Statutes already provided against such persons to be duely put  
in execution, hath thought good by this her Proclamation to notifie the same her High-  
nesse pleasure to all her louing Subjects; And therefore doth straitly charge and command  
all persons, that by the Lawes of this Realme may be taken for Rogues and Vagabonds,  
and all Idle persons and Masterlesse men, hauing not wherewith to liue in no liuing by  
any lawfull Labour or Occupation, and being her naturall borne Subjects, that they and  
euery of them doe within two dayes next after the publishing of this Proclamation, depart  
and auoide themselves from the said Cities of London and Westminster, and Suburbs of  
the same, and from the Borough of Southwarke, and all other Townes and Villages  
within seven miles compasse of the said Cities and Borough, and from thence to repaire to  
the Countreys and places where they were borne, there to tarrie and abide in some lawfull  
worke and exercise, as they ought to doe, vpon the paines and penalties limited and expres-  
sed in the Lawes and Statutes provided against such offenders. And her Maiesties fur-  
ther pleasure and expresse Commandement is, that the Maior, Aldermen and Recorder  
of the sayd Citty of London, and all Iustices of Peace within the Counties of Middlesex,  
Kent, Surrey, and Essex; and specially all those Iustices that bee within the limits afore-  
said, that they & euery of them, as they will auoid her Highnesse displeasure, as occasion shall  
serue cause good watch to be set, and search to be made in all places where they shall thinke  
conuenient, for the apprehending, arresting and taking of all such idle vagrant persons, and  
masterlesse men, and that they cause the same with all speede to be imprisoned, and duely  
punished according to the tenour and effect of her Maiesties Lawes and Statutes in such  
cases provided, without any toleration or fauour whatsoever to bee shewed vnto any  
of them. And her Maiestie doeth also especially charge and command the said Maior,  
Aldermen and Recorder of London, and all Iustices of Peace, Bailiffes of Liberties and  
Franchises within the sayd Cities, Townes and Limits, that they and euery of them  
within the limits of their Iurisdiccions, doe from time to time cause good search to be made  
aswell in all common Tabling houses, Innes, Alehouses, and Tipling houses, and also in  
all Bowling Alleyes, and other places, where any gaming or play is vled and frequented,  
and there to apprehend & take such suspected persons being Masterlesse men, of euill name  
and fame, not hauing wherewithall to maintaine their idle life, and the same so apprehen-  
ded and taken, to commit to prison, there to remaine, vntill they shall receiue such punish-  
ment and correction, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, is and shalbe due vn-  
to them. And her Highnesse is further pleased and contented, that the Maior of the said  
Citty of London, shall haue power and authoritie from time to time, to proclaim and pub-  
lish this present Proclamation within all places, within the said Citty and Suburbs, so  
often as to him shall seeme needfull and conuenient.

Giuen at Her Maiesties Honour of Hampton Court, the xxxj. day of Ianuary 1578. in the xxj. yeere  
of Her Highnesse Reigne.

God saue the Queene.

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to the Queenes Maiestie.